PARTY LINE ARCHIVE

PROJECT CONTEXT DOCUMENT

APPEAL TO CREWS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

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The project

I am soon to begin a project to archive historic text messages sent during the organisation of unlicenced music events, squat raves, or free parties – referred to here as 'party lines', or 'lines'.

The output of this project would be:

- An archive.org page containing .txt files of previous party lines.
- A tagging system for these lines, attributing a crew/soundsystem, rough geographical area, and month/year.
- A protonmail account accepting submissions for missing lines.

The original aim was also to archive recordings of voicemails from party lines, but this was abandoned during initial conversations due to perceived risk to the rave community.

Why undertake this project?

The project author believes in the importance of recording history. Culture not recorded can functionally cease to exist after the passing of time, and recording history while it lives prevents this from happening.

Party line messages are currently only recorded in unreliable ways – in personal collections of text messages, or message histories in group chats.

The Party Line Archive will collect these historical sources for future generations, while a lively community still exists.

Why me?

The project author carries a degree in history, has experience with archival work, and attends free party raves. They have previously archived science-art from the Bulletin of the Atomic Sciences at artoftheatomicscientists.tumblr.com.

Appeal to crews and community members

A community member is someone who knows about the subject matter because they lived it. This person may run a soundsystems, be a frequent attendee of raves, or just be a member known to the community.

The questions are distributed to those the author is aware of, and these individuals will be asked to share it with others. This means that the community can have a say in this project.

After questions are distributed, either submissions will open, or the author will have a good opportunity to develop the project around the advice.

Key questions

YOU MAY ANSWER AS MANY OF THESE QUESTIONS AS YOU LIKE AND YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE ANY QUESTIONS BLANK

How are you connected to the scene? What crews or communities are you a part of and in what area?
How important do you think it is that party line texts are preserved by using an archive like this? (Rank 1-5)
Are you aware of anywhere else that party line texts are collected, published, or archived?
No, Yes (I can't remember where), Yes (specify where)
Do you believe it is too much of a legal risk to crews and organisers to publicly document and archive these texts?
Yes, No, Yes, but I know how to make it safer (Please Specify)
Which information in these texts do you think it is necessary to removed or anonymised when they are posted?
Phone number of the line, Post Code of the location, Names of People,
Names of Organisers/Soundsystems, Other (Please specify)
What is a reasonable amount of time to wait between when a rave occurs and when to publish the line text in the archive?
The Next Day, One Week, One Month, Other (Please specify)
Would you be interested in contributing text messages to this project?
Yes, No
Please add any other comments you have.
Provide your email to be kept up to date about submissions.

Contact

partylinearchive@proton.me